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10 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Coordinator for Maps, IRC/M  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT: Geographic Procurement in Paraguay

1. The trend of events in Latin America over the past year has led to the placement of urgent requests on the Geographic Research Area, ORR, for geographic intelligence in support of plans and analyses. The purpose is to identify and describe those geographic factors that need to be particularly considered in dealing with situations of increasing concern to the United States.

2. An initial review of available materials on Paraguay has disclosed serious deficiencies in the basic geographic data needed for that country. Of particular concern are informational gaps related to roads, navigable waterways, climate, minor cities and towns, terrain, vegetation, and electric power, telecommunications, and aerial photography. In view of the short deadlines placed on us, it would appear that an immediate field collection effort in Paraguay is needed to fill the gaps noted.

3. It is therefore requested that an effort be made to advance plans for a Paraguay visit by Mr. Arthur Biggs, Geographic Attaché for South America, so as to permit collection on the topics cited above as soon as possible. I understand that his present situation may permit a visit of some four to five days in Asuncion prior to the scheduled procurement mission in Columbia and Venezuela commencing 22 March 1960. In our view, this amount of time would be sufficient for him to meet our immediate needs.

4. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

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Chief, Geographic Research  
Research and Reports

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